

(c) "The Banker" has given the rankings separately in terms of strength, size, soundness and profit performance.

(d) to (f) Various measures have been taken by Government and RBI to improve the capital base, quality of assets, operational efficiency and profitability of the banks. These measures include subscription to the share capital of nationalised banks, rationalisation of service charges and interest rates structure and containment of staff growth. For reinforcing financial viability, the banks have been advised to ensure better credit management, raise productivity and effect economy wherever possible. To provide the competitive edge to banks, new money market instruments like certificates of deposits and commercial papers have been introduced and interest rates on term deposits have been enhanced. Banks have also been permitted to diversify their activities.

Money Laundering
Alleged unauthorised transfer of money

*382. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-
SHEKARA MURTHY }
SHRI V. SREENIVAS }
PRASAD }

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Enforcement Directorate, Bombay has recently unearthed a super efficient Muscat-to-Bombay cash transfer system as reported in the Times of India of July 13, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) the details of the arrests, if any, made in this connection; and

(d) the further steps contemplated by the Government in this regard :

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) :

(a) and (b) The Officers of the Enforcement Directorate at Bombay searched two residential premises of Shri Sameer Kader Khisay. As a result of the search Indian currency in cash amounting to Rs. 25,45,000, fifty Bank drafts for a total value of

Rs. 3,02,500, foreign currency Omani Riyals 430 and U.S. Dollars 570 were seized, alongwith incriminating documents. Shri Sameer Qader Khisay is alleged to have made payments of about Rs. 15 crores in India over a period of fifteen months, by order or on behalf of persons resident outside India in violation of Section 9 of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. Such payment in India without corresponding inward remittance other than through authorised channels, caused loss of foreign exchange.

(c) Shri Sameer Qader Khisay as well as one Shri Abdul Qayoom Damodi and his employee Shri Mohd. Hussain Damodi, have been arrested under Sec. 35 of the FERA, 1973.

(d) Appropriate action as warranted under the law is being taken.

[Translation]

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Ban on Imports

*383. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD : Will the MINISTER OF COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the items which have been banned for import keeping in view the economic crisis prevailing in the country;

(b) how long this ban is likely to continue;

(c) whether it is likely to have an adverse impact on industrial production; and

(d) if so, the annual loss of revenue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) No items have been banned for import under the new trade policy, announced on 4th July, 1991. However, unlisted raw materials, components, consumables & spares have been shifted to the Limited Permissible List and the same can now be imported through REP licences.

(d) Does not arise.